

## CLAIMS

### WE CLAIM:

1. In a method for introducing foreign genetic material into a bacteria, the improvement comprising transforming the foreign genetic material into a bacterial strain the genome of which is reduced by at least 10% in size compared to the normal for bacteria of that species.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein the bacteria is an *E. coli* strain.
3. The method of claim 2 wherein the bacteria is *E. coli* strain MDS41-R13.
4. The method of claim 1 wherein the genome is reduced in size by at least 14%.
5. A method of preparing a bacterial culture for transformation at increased efficiency, the method comprising the steps of  
culturing the bacteria to an optical density in excess of 1.0 in a medium using glycerol as a carbon source; and  
transforming the bacteria with a foreign DNA molecule.
6. The method of claim 5 wherein the medium is Terrific Broth.
9. The method of claim 5 wherein the culturing is done at in excess of 26°C.
10. The method of claim 5 wherein the transformants recovered are in excess of  $10^{10}$  transformants per microgram of introduced DNA.